

What is claimed is:

1. A method for playing audio programming during video trick mode playback of a video presentation, the method comprising:
 - reading coded digital data comprising video frames and corresponding audio frames;
 - periodically dropping selected blocks of said audio frames; and
 - interspersing periods of silence between at least some of the blocks remaining after said dropping step to form a signal for audio playback.
2. The method according to claim 1, comprising a further step of:
 - controlling said dropping and said interspersing steps to maintain an audio playback rate of between about 1X and 1.5X.
3. The method according to claim 1, comprising a further step of:
 - controlling said dropping and said interspersing steps for audio playback of approximately 1X for any video trick mode playback speed.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said delineating step comprises the step of:
 - selecting said periods of silence by at least one of muting a portion of said remaining set of blocks for audio playback, and inserting a plurality of audio frames coded to represent silence.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said delineating step further comprising generating an audio playback signal corresponding to silence for audio playback during said periods of silence.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting step includes:
 - selecting said remaining set of blocks for audio playback in accordance with a selected speed of said video trick mode.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said delineating step comprises:
 - selecting said periods of silence of predetermined duration.

1 8. The method according to claim 7 wherein said periods of silence selected in
2 said delineating step have a duration of at least 100 milliseconds.

1 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium of reading
2 step is selected from the group consisting of a DVD, a magneto optical disk, a
3 magnetic hard disk, a video CD and a solid state memory device.

1 10. The method according to claim 1 wherein said coded digital data of reading
2 step has an MPEG format and said reading step further comprises decoding an
3 MPEG formatted bit stream to obtain audio samples.

1 11. An apparatus for playing audio content accompanying video trick mode
2 playback of a video program, comprising:

3 a storage medium reader for reading coded digital data from a storage
4 medium, said coded digital data representing video frames and corresponding
5 audio data; and,

6 a control processor for selecting blocks of said corresponding audio data to
7 be dropped periodically, and for selecting at least a portion of said blocks
8 remaining for audio playback, and said control processor controllably inserting
9 periods of silence between ones of said remaining blocks for audio playback.

1 12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control processor
2 selecting a portion of said blocks remaining for audio playback at a rate of
3 between about 1X and 1.5X, independent of said video trick mode playback speed.

1 13. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said periods of silence are
2 formed by at least one of muting a portion of said remaining set of blocks for audio
3 playback, and inserting audio data representative of silence.

1 14. The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising an audio decoder
2 and an audio digital to analog converter for generating an audio playback signal
3 corresponding to said remaining set of blocks for audio playback and said periods
4 of silence.

1 15. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control processor
2 controls said periodic dropping of said corresponding audio data in accordance
3 with a selected speed of said video trick mode.

1 16. The apparatus according to claim 15, comprising a storage medium location
2 containing audio data representative of silence wherein said control processor
3 controls reading of said storage medium location containing audio data
4 representative of silence for a predetermined time duration for combining with
5 said remaining set of blocks for audio playback.

1 17. The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said periods of silence have a
2 duration between 100 and 300 milliseconds.

1 18. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said storage medium is
2 selected from the group consisting of a DVD, a magneto optical disk, a magnetic
3 hard disk, a video CD and a solid state memory device.

1 19. The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said coded digital data is an
2 MPEG format and said storage medium reader comprises a decoder for an MPEG
3 formatted bit stream.

1 20. A method for playing audio programming during video trick mode playback
2 of a video presentation, the method comprising:
3 reading coded digital data from a storage medium, said coded digital data
4 comprising video frames and corresponding audio data;
5 periodically dropping selected blocks of said audio data, and selecting at
6 least a portion of blocks remaining for audio playback; and
7 inserting audio data representative of silence between ones of said portion
8 of remaining blocks for audio playback.